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AND
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2099
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NEGATIVE RESULTS

"...AND THEN I ACTIVATED THE PRIME FREQUENCY MODULATOR.
"WE DOVE THROUGH THE NEGATIVE ZONE TOWARD THE RIFT, AND--!"
WITH MUCH OWED TO THE WORK OF STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY
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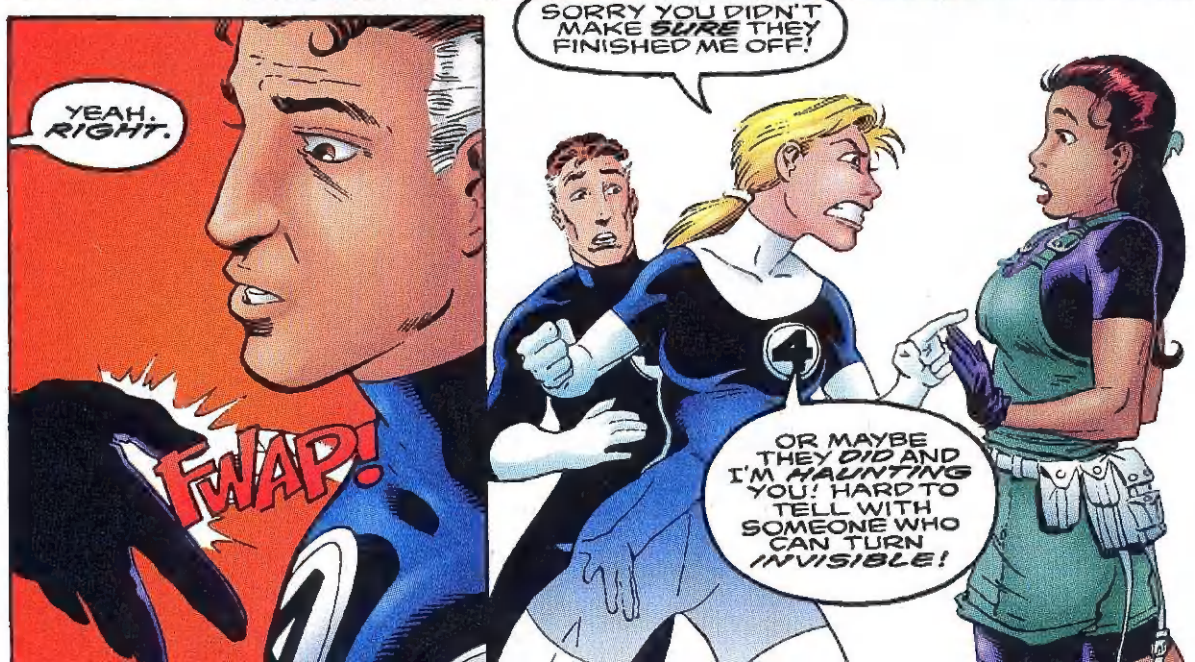
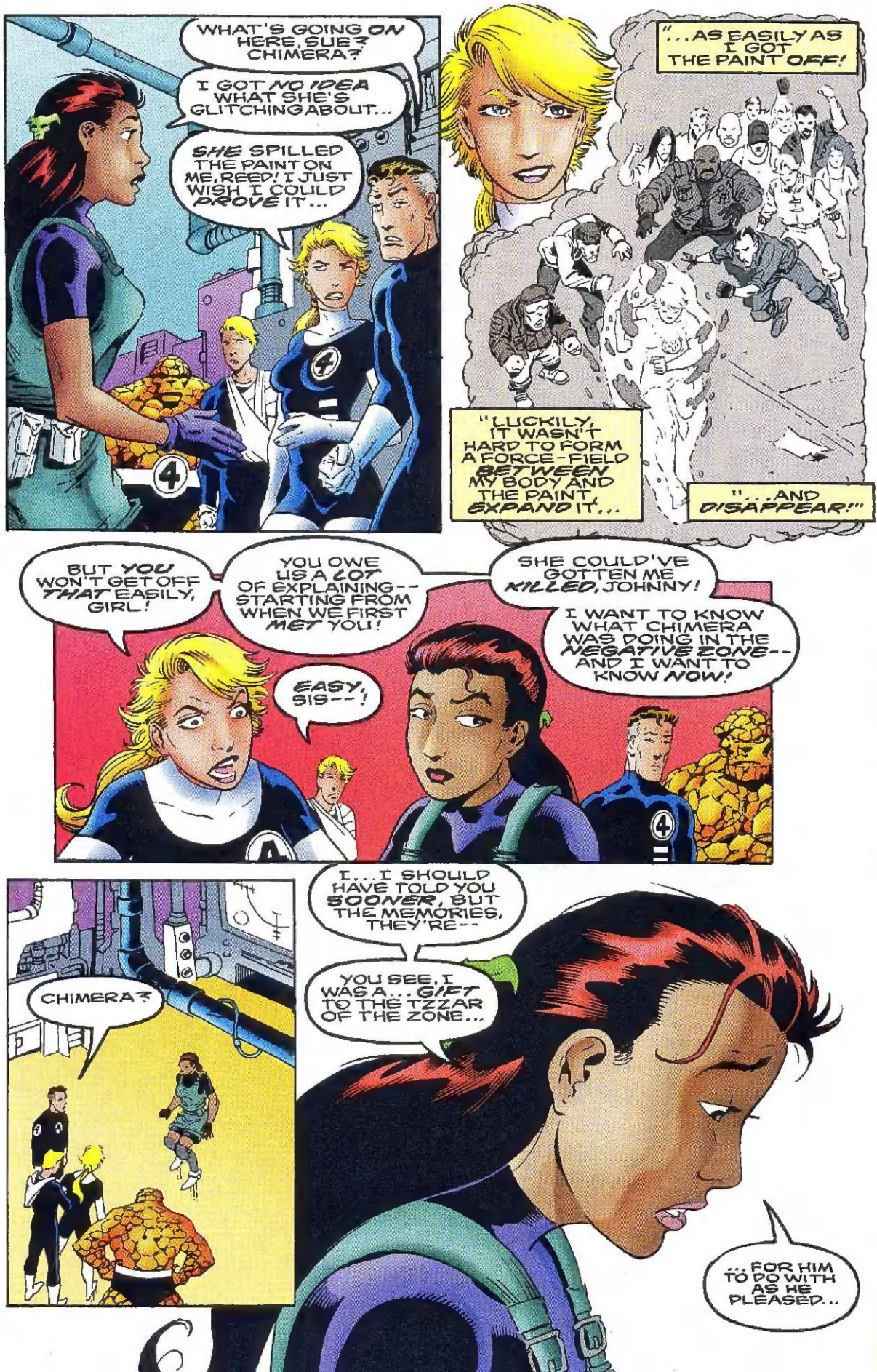
Scanned By Gothman for the HaCaA

--AND THAT'S ALL I RECALL BEFORE OUR... ARRIVAL IN 2099 A FEW DAYS AGO!
ME, TOO, REED. I MEAN, I REMEMBER EVERYTHING TURNING INSIDE-OUT. BUT THEN...
HOW 'BOUT YOU, BEN?
ALL I CAN SAY IS--YOU TWO'RE LUCKY I GOT SUCH A THICK HEAD FER ONCE!
YEAH, THAT BLOW-BACK HIT ME LIKE A COUPLE'A ROUNDS WITH THE HULK...
...BUT MY BABY-BLUES WAS STILL FOCUSIN' WHEN ANNIHILUS--
REED! EVERYONE!
SOMETHING HORRIBLE HAPPENED!
CHIMERA!
WHERE'S SUE?
SHE...SHE'S BACK!
IT HAPPENED SO FAST! IT--
IT'S OKAY, CHIMERA! I GOT YOU! YOU'RE SAFE!
YES, OF COURSE I AM...
...JOHNNY...
AS I WAS SAYING...

I WAS LEADING SUE THROUGH DOWNTOWN SO SHE COULD GATHER SUPPLIES... FOOD...
"SHE WAS INVISIBLE, OF COURSE... PALMING AND TURNING WHATEVER WE NEEDED INVISIBLE... THE USUAL PROGRAM...
"THEN THE PROGRAM CRASHED!"

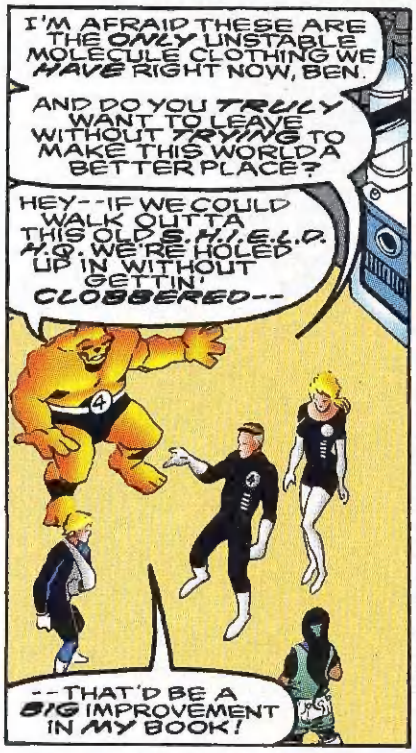
THE 'TOWNERS WERE ON HER IN A NANO-- SCREAMING ABOUT THE STARK-FUJIKAWA BOUNTY ON ALL OF YOU!
I BARELY ESCAPED MYSELF!
REED, I'M... I'M SO SORRY...


YEAH. RIGHT.
FWAP!
SORRY YOU DIDN'T MAKE SURE THEY FINISHED ME OFF!
OR MAYBE THEY DID AND I'M HAUNTING YOU! HARD TO TELL WITH SOMEONE WHO CAN TURN INVISIBLE!


WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, SUE? CHIMERA?
I GOT NO IDEA WHAT SHE'S GLITCHING ABOUT...
SHE SPILLED THE PAINT ON ME, REED! I JUST WISH I COULD PROVE IT...
"...AS EASILY AS I GOT THE PAINT OFF!
"LUCKILY, IT WASN'T HARD TO FORM A FORCE-FIELD BETWEEN MY BODY AND THE PAINT, EXPAND IT...
"...AND DISAPPEAR!"
BUT YOU WON'T GET OFF THAT EASILY, GIRL!
YOU OWE US A LOT OF EXPLAINING--STARTING FROM WHEN WE FIRST MET YOU!
SHE COULD'VE GOTTEN ME KILLED, JOHNNY!
I WANT TO KNOW WHAT CHIMERA WAS DOING IN THE NEGATIVE ZONE--AND I WANT TO KNOW NOW!
EASY, SIS--!
CHIMERA?
I...I SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU SOONER, BUT THE MEMORIES, THEY'RE--
YOU SEE, I WAS A... GIFT TO THE TZZAR OF THE ZONE...
...FOR HIM TO DO WITH AS HE PLEASED...

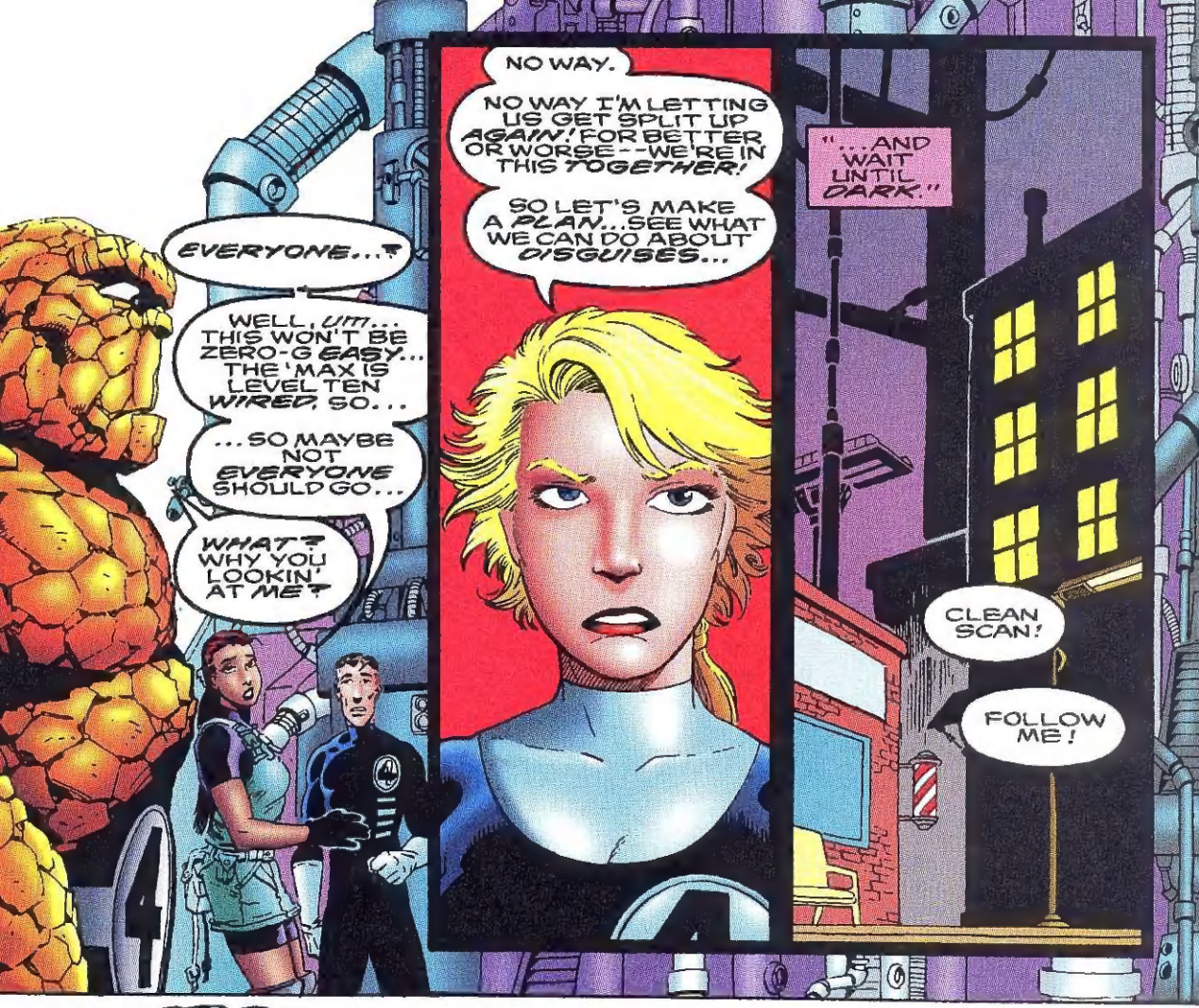
I...I'M SO SORRY, CHIMERA!
AFTER WHAT YOU MUST HAVE GONE THROUGH--TO NOT LET IT GET TO YOU... SLOW YOU DOWN...
GOOD LORD...
OH, IT TAKES A LOT TO STOP ME...
...SUE...

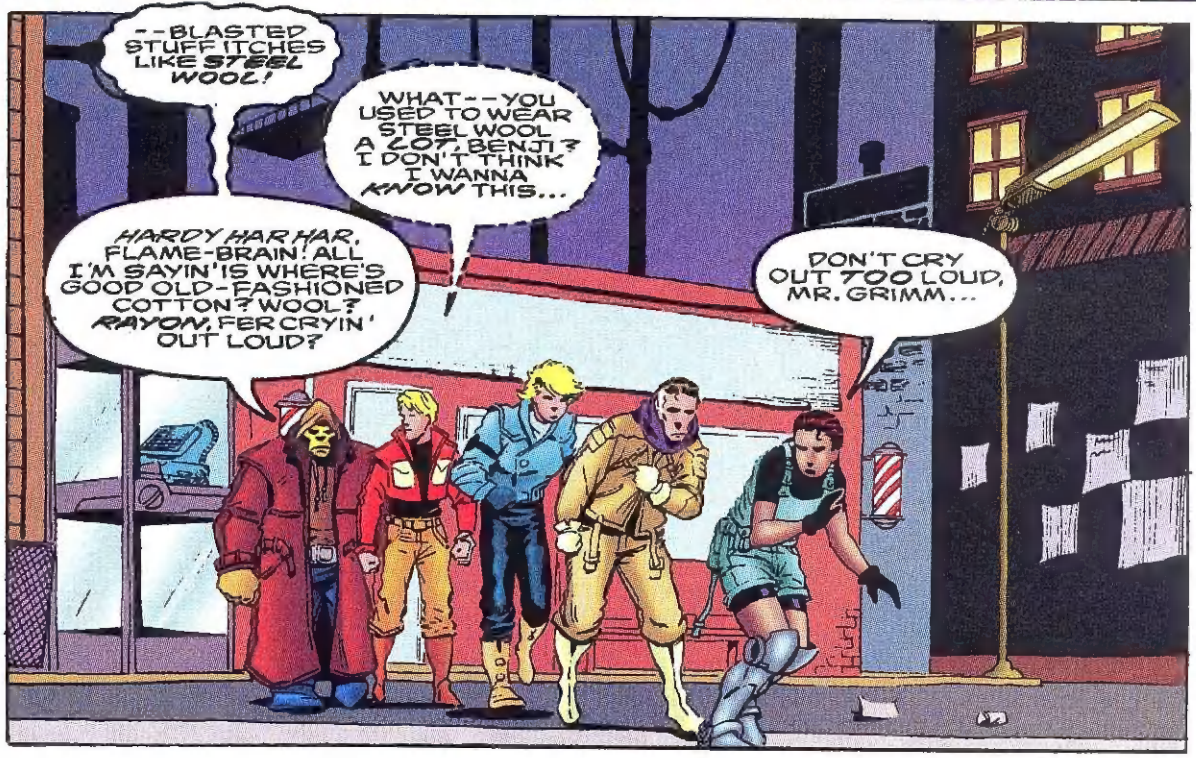
AHH--THE FUTURE SURE AIN'T WHAT IT USETA BE! WE GOTTA FIND A WAY OUTTA THIS PLACE--STRETCH--FER ALLA US!
BACK INTA OUR OWN TIME...INTA OUR OWN UNIFORMS, EVEN!


I'M AFRAID THESE ARE THE ONLY UNSTABLE MOLECULE CLOTHING WE HAVE RIGHT NOW, BEN.
AND DO YOU TRULY WANT TO LEAVE WITHOUT TRYING TO MAKE THIS WORLD A BETTER PLACE?
HEY--IF WE COULD WALK OUTTA THIS OLD S.H.I.E.L.D. H.Q. WE'RE HOLED UP IN WITHOUT GETTIN' CLOBBERED--
--THAT'D BE A BIG IMPROVEMENT IN MY BOOK!

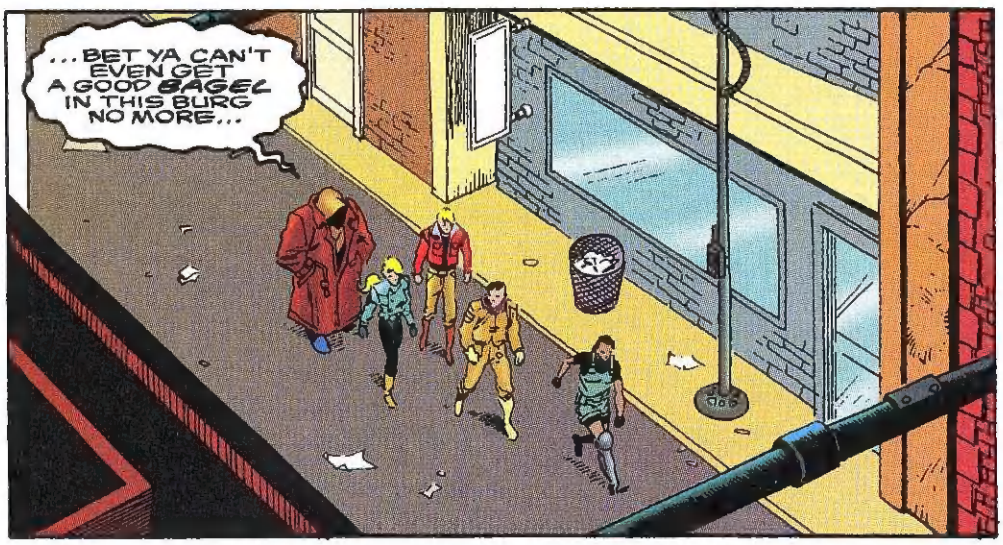
HM. YOU'RE RIGHT, OLD FRIEND.
OUR FIRST GOAL MUST BE REMOVING THE BOUNTY ON US BY DISPROVING STARK-FUJIKAWA'S CLAIM THAT WE'RE "EXPERIMENTAL SUBJECTS."
A SIMPLE D.N.A. ANALYSIS WOULD DO THAT--BUT THIS SUBSTATION DOESN'T HAVE THE CAPABILITIES...

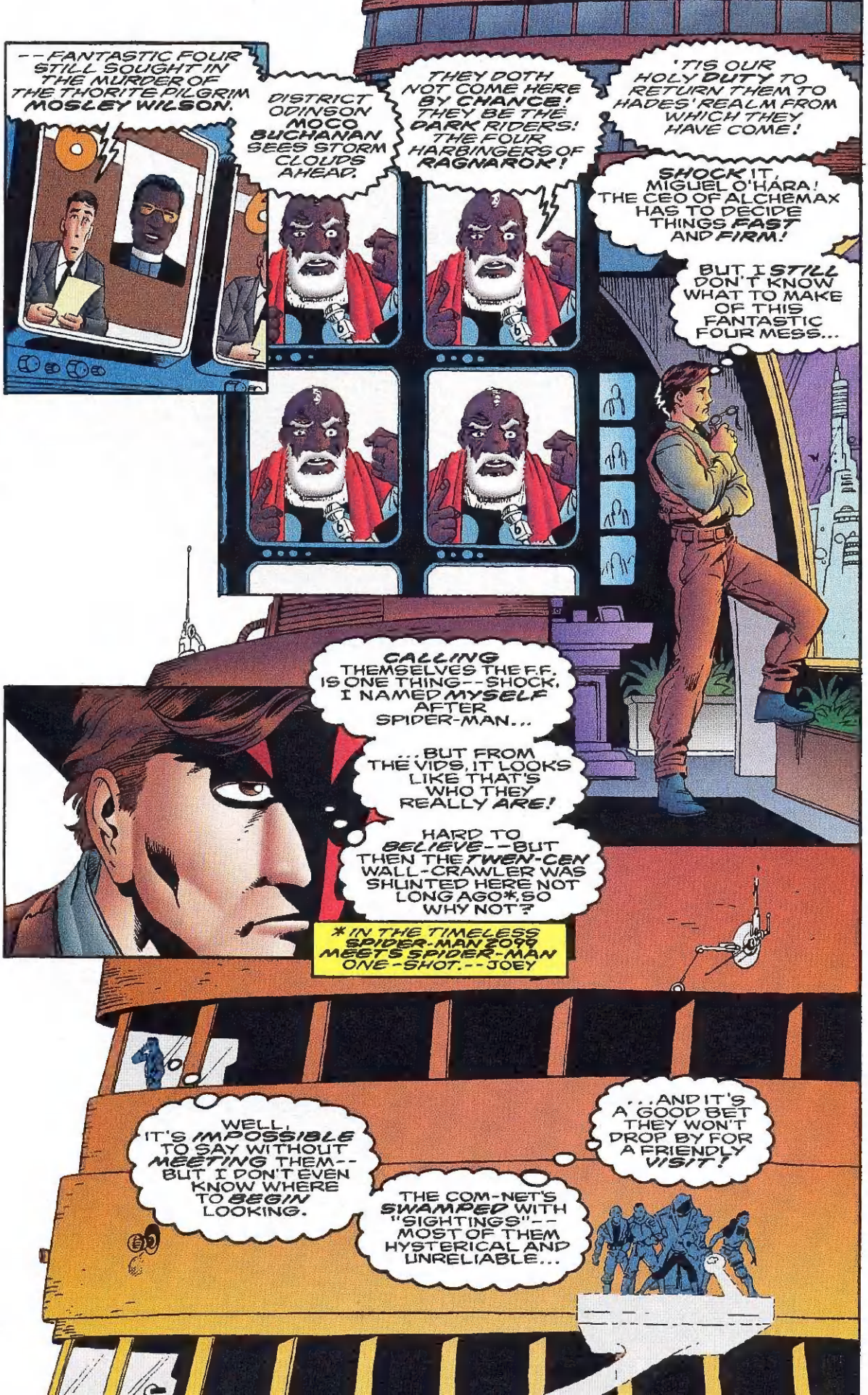
ALCHEMAX DOES, REED! THEY'RE FAMOUS FOR THEIR DESIGNER GENE LABS!
I'LL TAKE YOU THERE!
PERFECT! WHAT WOULD WE DO WITHOUT YOU, CHIMERA?
I THINK EVERYONE CAN BE READY IN LESS THAN AN HOUR!


EVERYONE...?
WELL, UM!... THIS WON'T BE ZERO-G EASY... THE 'MAX IS LEVEL TEN WIRED, SO...
...SO MAYBE NOT EVERYONE SHOULD GO...
WHAT? WHY YOU LOOKIN' AT ME?
NO WAY.
NO WAY I'M LETTING US GET SPLIT UP AGAIN! FOR BETTER OR WORSE--WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER!
SO LET'S MAKE A PLAN...SEE WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT DISGUISES...
"...AND WAIT UNTIL DARK."
CLEAN SCAN!
FOLLOW ME!


--BLASTED STUFF ITCHES LIKE STEEL WOOL!
WHAT--YOU USED TO WEAR STEEL WOOL A LOT, BENJI? I DON'T THINK I WANNA KNOW THIS...
HARDY HAR HAR, FLAME-BRAIN! ALL I'M SAYIN'IS WHERE'S GOOD OLD-FASHIONED COTTON? WOOL? RAYON, FER CRYIN' OUT LOUD?
DON'T CRY OUT TOO LOUD, MR. GRIMM...

...IF WE'RE SCANNED *HERE*, A 'TOWNER MIGHT KNOW--
NO!
WHAT?
KNOW *WHAT*, CHIMERA?
NOTHING.
LOOKS LIKE YOU SEEN A *GHOST*, GIRLIE.
YEAH. IT *HAD* TO BE...
C'MON, LET'S *SCROLL*-- *FAST!*


...BET YA CAN'T EVEN GET A GOOD *BAGEL* IN THIS BURG NO MORE...

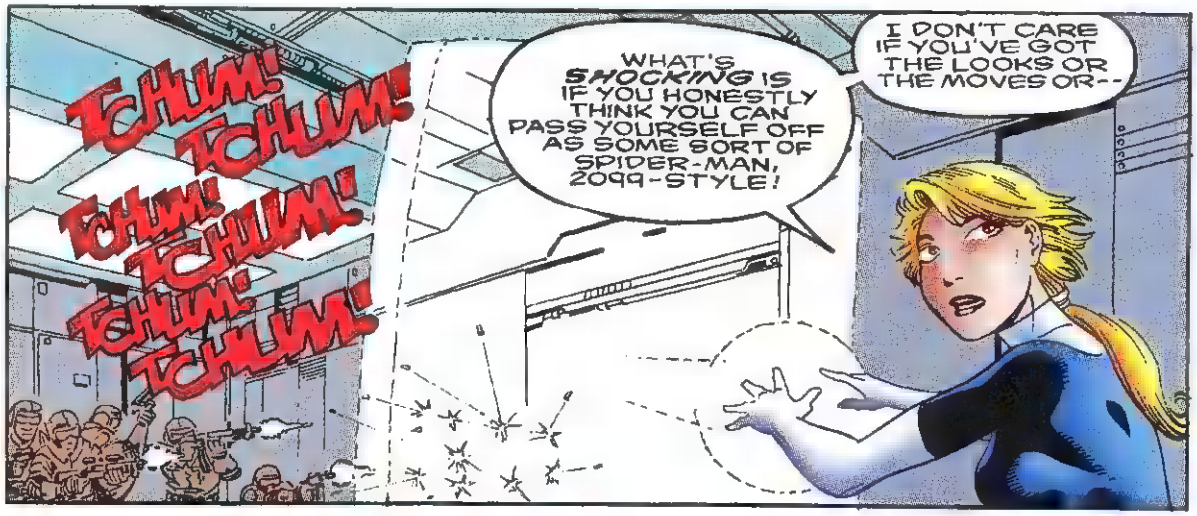

--FANTASTIC FOUR STILL SOUGHT IN THE MURDER OF THE THORITE PILGRIM MOSLEY WILSON.
DISTRICT ODINSON MOCO BUCHANAN SEES STORM CLOUDS AHEAD.
THEY DOTH NOT COME HERE BY CHANCE! THEY BE THE DARK RIDERS! THE FOUR HARBINGERS OF RAGNARÖK!
'TIS OUR HOLY DUTY TO RETURN THEM TO HADES' REALM FROM WHICH THEY HAVE COME!
SHOCK IT, MIGUEL O'HARA! THE CEO OF ALCHEMAX HAS TO DECIDE THINGS FAST AND FIRM!
BUT I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT TO MAKE OF THIS FANTASTIC FOUR MESS...
CALLING THEMSELVES THE F.F. IS ONE THING--SHOCK, I NAMED MYSELF AFTER SPIDER-MAN...
...BUT FROM THE VIDS, IT LOOKS LIKE THAT'S WHO THEY REALLY ARE!
HARD TO BELIEVE--BUT THEN THE TWEN-CEN WALL-CRAWLER WAS SHUNTED HERE NOT LONG AGO*, SO WHY NOT?
*IN THE TIMELESS SPIDER-MAN 2099 MEETS SPIDER-MAN ONE-SHOT.--JOEY
WELL, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY WITHOUT MEETING THEM--BUT I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN LOOKING.
...AND IT'S A GOOD BET THEY WON'T DROP BY FOR A FRIENDLY VISIT!
THE COM-NET'S SWAMPED WITH "SIGHTINGS"--MOST OF THEM HYSTERICAL AND UNRELIABLE...

--SORRY HOW THAT BUNCH'A DOWNTOWNERS RECOGNIZED ME, GANG, YA SHOULD'A LEFT ME...
NONSENSE, BEN! WE GOT OUT OF THERE--AND NOW I JUST NEED TO KNOW HOW WE'RE GETTING IN'TO HERE!
WELL, I'M SORRY, SUE! I KNEW WHERE ALCHEMAX WAS-- I NEVER SAID I HAD IT BITMAPPED!
THAT'S ALL RIGHT, CHIMERA. WE'RE SOMEWHERE AROUND THE 237TH FLOOR--AS GOOD A PLACE AS ANY TO START LOOKING.
YES. JUST ENOUGH GIVE IN THE WINDOW SEALS TO WORK MY FINGERS THROUGH.
BE READY FOR ANYTHING.
YOU MADE IT LOOK SO EASY, REED.
ACTUALLY-- IT WAS A REAL PANE, CHIMERA.
AS IN--PANE OF GLASS?
OH, NEVER MIND.
NO ALARMS?
THIEVES PROBABLY GET STOPPED BY NOSEBLEEDS LONG BEFORE THEY GET THIS HIGH, JOHNNY.
WISHFUL THINKIN', SUZIE...
MR. O'HARA UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY ON LEVEL 237.
L 237
THEN ACTIVATE DEFENSE MEASURE 8-- ISN'T THAT STANDARD PROGRAMMING?

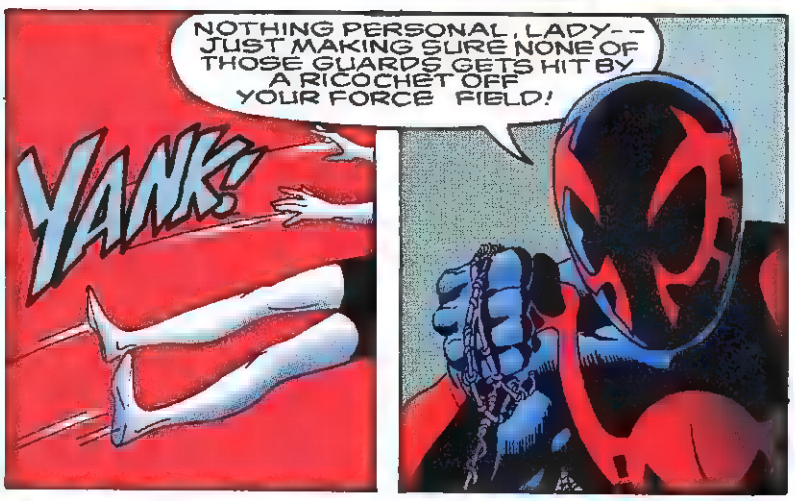
[illegible] AS IS NOTIFYING THE ON-SITE [illegible] WHEN [illegible] MATCH [illegible] FELONS . . .
SHOCK IT!
LEARN TO PAY SHOCKING ATTENTION, O'HARA!
'PUTER--HAS SECURITY SEEN THIS VID?
WANTED...?
[illegible] A PATROL [illegible] [illegible] ROUNDS [illegible] DISPATCHED.
GOOD! THEN I CAN BLAME THIS ON A COMPUTER GLITCH--
THIS UNIT HAS [illegible] NO ERROR, MR. O'HARA . . .
--IF I CAN GET THOSE PEOPLE OUT OF THERE BEFORE SECURITY SHOWS UP! LUCKY FOR THEM--
--I KNOW A SHORT-CUT!
FWIZZ

THEY KNOW WE'RE HERE!
SHOCKIN' STRAIGHT -- WE'RE SPIKED!
WRAWNG!
NAH...
...WE'RE JUST GETTIN' STARTED!
VVVVVVVVVVVV
AWRIGHT -- 237TH FLOOR! COMPUTERS, D.N.A., GIZMOS, AN' LADIES' LINGERIE!
EVERYONE OUT --
KIK-KEKK!
FLAME ON!
SHRAK!!
-LAST STOP!

KTEESH!
I DON'T THINK SECURITY WILL HAVE ANY DOUBTS WHERE WE ARE NOW!
WE SHOULD MOVE ON BEFORE WE ATTRACT ANY MORE--
--ATTENTION?
ALL RIGHT--EVERYONE STAY CALM!
THE NAME'S SPIDER-MAN AND YOU'RE--
CHAK! CHAK!
--SURROUNDED!
CHAK!
CHAK! CHAK!
NOW, AIN'T THIS A KODAK MOMENT!
AN' ME WITH MY CAMERA BACK IN THE LAST CENTURY!
OH--THIS WAS A GREAT PLAN!
DON'T PAT YOURSELF ON THE BACK YET, POSER!
YOU THINK YOU'RE SPIDER-MAN, huh?
WELL YOU DON'T LOOK TOO AMAZING OR SPECTACULAR TO ME!
MAYBE THAT'S BECAUSE I ALWAYS THOUGHT OF MYSELF AS MORE--
--SHOCKIN'!


TCHUM! TCHUM!
TCHUM! TCHUM!
TCHUM! TCHUM!
WHAT'S SHOCKING IS IF YOU HONESTLY THINK YOU CAN PASS YOURSELF OFF AS SOME SORT OF SPIDER-MAN, 2099-STYLE!
I DON'T CARE IF YOU'VE GOT THE LOOKS OR THE MOVES OR--

--OR THE WEBBING?
THWAP!


YANK!
NOTHING PERSONAL, LADY-- JUST MAKING SURE NONE OF THOSE GUARDS GETS HIT BY A RICOCHET OFF YOUR FORCE FIELD!

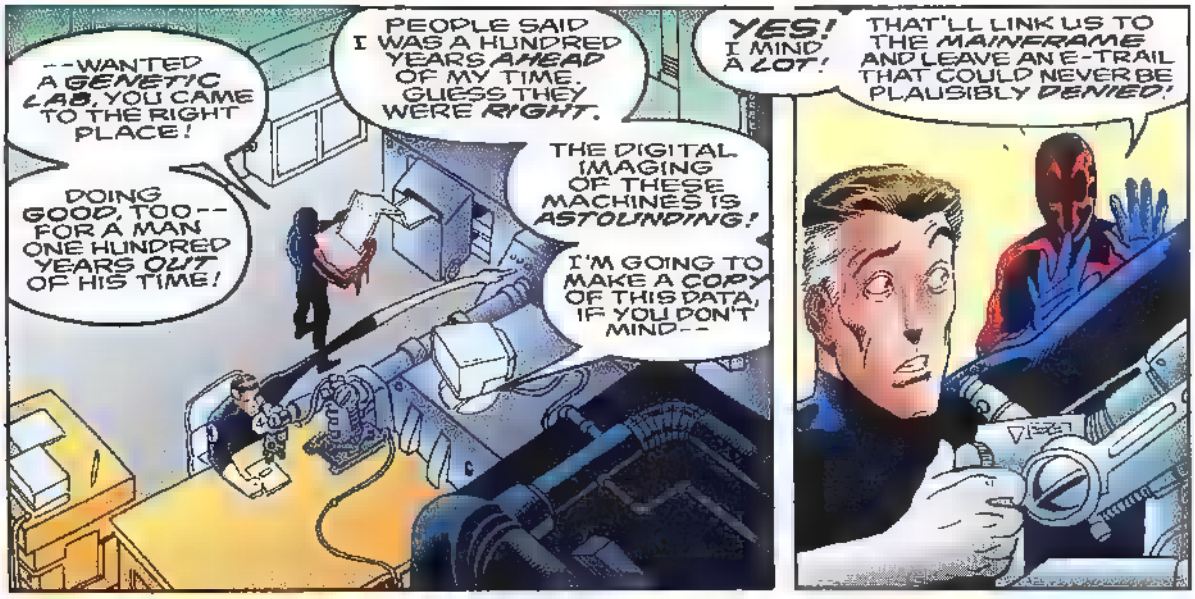
LET GO OF MY WIFE, YOU ERSATZ INSECT!
I REALLY DON'T THINK NOW'S THE RIGHT MOMENT FOR JEALOUSY TO REAR ITS UGLY HEAD--
--NO OFFENSE.
FIRE AT WILL!

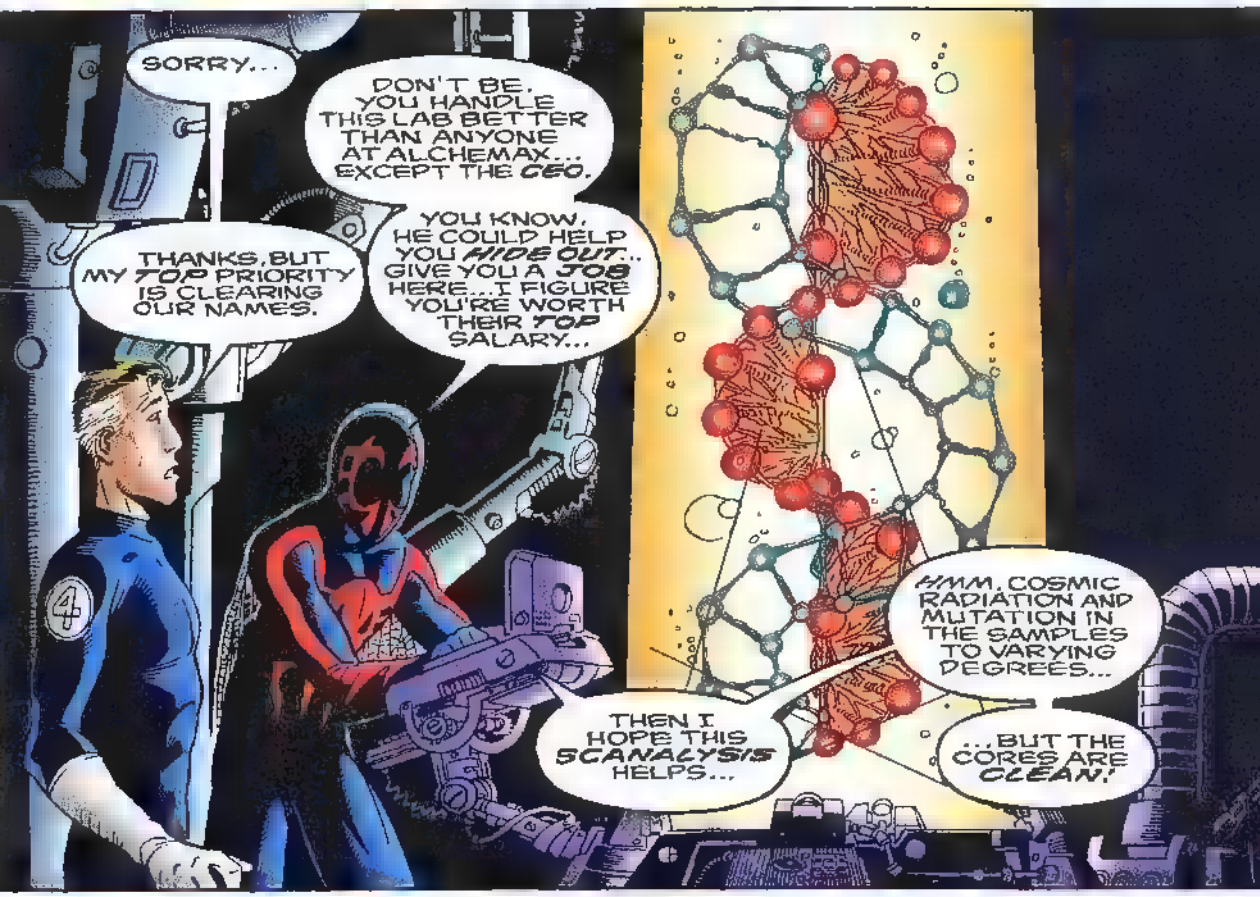
NGF!
TCHUM! TCHUM!
TCHUM!
ANYWAY, DON'T WORRY-- I'LL MAKE TIME FOR YOU, TOO!

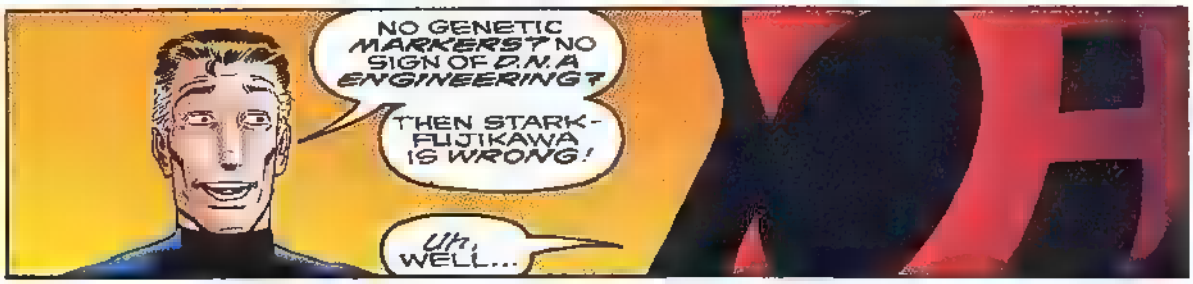
AHHG!
SORRY ABOUT THE TALONS--I USUALLY PREFER MINOR PUNCTURES TO BLAST-HOLES, MYSELF.
I'M ACTUALLY A BIG FAN OF YOURS, MR. RICHARDS.
MR. RICHARDS--CAN YOU HEAR ME?
HEAR THIS, PUNK--
--IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME!
OH, SH--
THWAMM!
--OCK!

THINK YOU'RE GOING TO PULL SOME DAMAGE, DRONE? YOU BETTER SIT DOWN--
WHUP!
UGH!
--'CAUSE YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TRIGGER ANYONE WITH THIS BABY!
NO, THAT PLEASURE'LL BE ALL MI--
HEY--!
Huh?
DON'T WORRY, CHIMERA! NONE OF THESE GUNS'LL BE USED AGAINST US NOW!
OH, SHOCKIN' GREAT, JOHNNY! BUT...
"...YOU MELTED MY BLASTER, TOO! HOW'S A GIRL SUPPOSED TO PROTECT HERSELF?"
DEFENSIVE POSITIONS, MEN! PRIME FRAG-SPHERES!
ON MY MARK--
FALL BACK, CAPTAIN!
SECURITY
MR. O'HARA?
I'VE BEEN MONITORING THE ACTION, CAPTAIN--AND YOUR TEAM'S DOING EXCELLENT WORK!
BUT WHY SHOULD ALCHEMAX'S MEN GET BLOODIED WHEN THAT COSTUMED VOLUNTEER SPIDER-MAN IS ON-SCENE?
BUT SPIDER-MAN'S GONE, MR. O'HARA, AND THE SITUATION IS--
--UNDER CONTROL, I'M SURE--BUT YOU DON'T KNOW EVERYTHING I DO, CAPTAIN! SPIDER-MAN WILL RETURN VERY SOON.
FALL BACK!

YOU HEARD THE CEO, MEN.
LEAVE 'EM TO THE SPIDER!
HOW COME I DON'T THINK THEY'RE LEAVIN'TA GO SET UP AFTERNOON TEA FER US?
WHAT KIND OF EXECUTIVE ORDER WAS THAT?
THEY'RE REGROUPING, REED...CALLING IN REINFORCEMENTS...WE SHOULD DISAPPEAR--
OKAY, YOU FANTASTIC FUGITIVES! TIME FOR A CRASH COURSE IN 2099 BY--
OH, THE GUARDS ARE GONE?
YEAH, COBWEB HEAD--JUST LIKE YER GONNA BE IN ABOUT TWO--
WAITWAITWAIT-WAITWAIT!
I COME IN PEACE--AND WILL NOT BE THE ONE LEAVING IN PIECES, IF IT COMES TO THAT.
I'M ON YOUR SIDE--HONEST!
THE CEO RAN THIS SO I COULD HELP YOU ANY WAY I CAN...


--WANTED A GENETIC LAB, YOU CAME TO THE RIGHT PLACE!
PEOPLE SAID I WAS A HUNDRED YEARS AHEAD OF MY TIME. GUESS THEY WERE RIGHT.
DOING GOOD, TOO-- FOR A MAN ONE HUNDRED YEARS OUT OF HIS TIME!
THE DIGITAL IMAGING OF THESE MACHINES IS ASTOUNDING!
I'M GOING TO MAKE A COPY OF THIS DATA, IF YOU DON'T MIND--
YES! I MIND A LOT!
THAT'LL LINK US TO THE MAINFRAME AND LEAVE AN E-TRAIL THAT COULD NEVER BE PLAUSIBLY DENIED!


SORRY...
DON'T BE. YOU HANDLE THIS LAB BETTER THAN ANYONE AT ALCHEMAX... EXCEPT THE CEO.
THANKS, BUT MY TOP PRIORITY IS CLEARING OUR NAMES.
YOU KNOW, HE COULD HELP YOU HIDE OUT... GIVE YOU A JOB HERE... I FIGURE YOU'RE WORTH THEIR TOP SALARY...
HMM. COSMIC RADIATION AND MUTATION IN THE SAMPLES TO VARYING DEGREES...
...BUT THE CORES ARE CLEAN!
THEN I HOPE THIS SCANALYSIS HELPS...


NO GENETIC MARKERS? NO SIGN OF D.N.A ENGINEERING?
THEN STARK-FUJIKAWA IS WRONG!
UH, WELL...

Frequently Questioned Answers

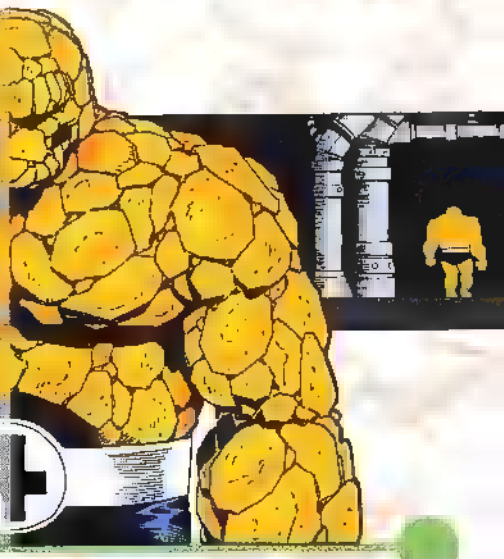
1. NO, WE'RE NOT KILLIN' EM. If and when another 2099 character loses his or her book, he or she will not die! Got it? Loss of title does not necessarily mean loss of life! So there!

2. YOU'RE NOT GONNA FIND LUNA [redacted] That is, among the X-Men [redacted] **Action Figures**, Luna's appearance has been postponed till next year. So you can tell your pals to call the chase off for the time being! As for the other [redacted] characters in the series you've been petitioning us for, most notably Spidey and Doom...hey, those guys at Toy Biz have an address, too, ya know!

3. DOOM'S GOING BACK. Back in time, that is! "Rage Against Time," our latest series-within-a-series, starts this month! In this literally historic issue, you'll be treated to cameos by Daredevil and Doctor Strange, and get a little insight on our series' new scribe, Tom Peyer, as to the beginnings of the [redacted] Wild Boy known as Dorian! If you read X-NATION 2099 #1, we'll bet you didn't realize ol' Dorian was buds with the Lord of Cheveja, didja?

4. YES, IT'S A HIT! X-NATION 2099 #1 was a runaway success, and for that we thank you! The second issue hits the racks this month, "Kicking and Screaming!" No, that's not the condition it shows up in, it's the title! If you haven't feasted your eyes on the art by Humberto Ramos, what are you waiting for? Self-denial and discipline can be important traits, but not when it comes to comic books!

5. 'CAUSE I'M BORED, THAT'S WHY! Oh, ya wanted to know more about what you read in MARVEL VISION...like there's this plan to boost everything ahead eighteen months to the year 2101! Well, many of you have asked about when we'd get around to changing the titles of the books to 2100. (Actually more of you have asked when we'd get around to changing the titles to "the next year, 3000," which says something sad about the state of education in these United States. But why throw stones?) So we're going one better...one whole calendar year better! What'll happen to the X-Men? The formation of Halo City? The FF? Spidey? High level decisions are being made now! (Not that we're high-level; we were just thinking of writing some of this in the Empire State Building, and...)
Oh, and in case you didn't know, Karl Kesel, who writes our incredible FANTASTIC FOUR 2099 book, suggested the "year!" Got a nice ring to it, eh?



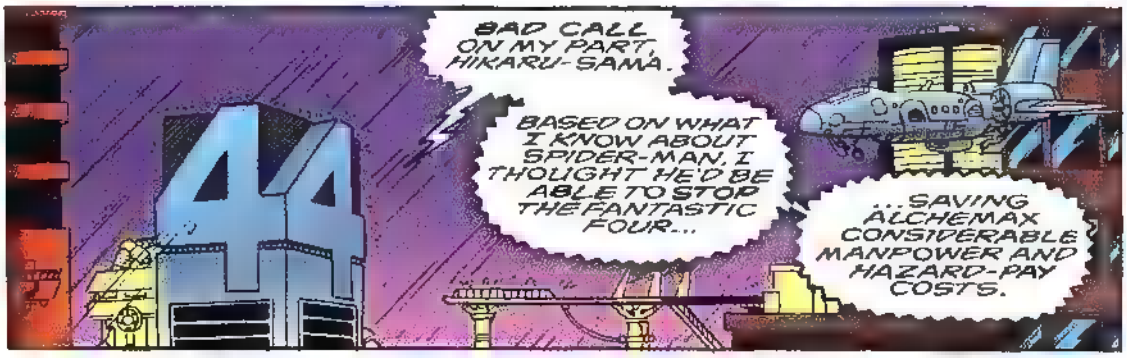
6. MAY. That's the current release month for the John Moore/Greg & Tim Hildebrandt bookshelf edition of X-MEN 2099, "Oasis." It'll be worth every minute of the wait!

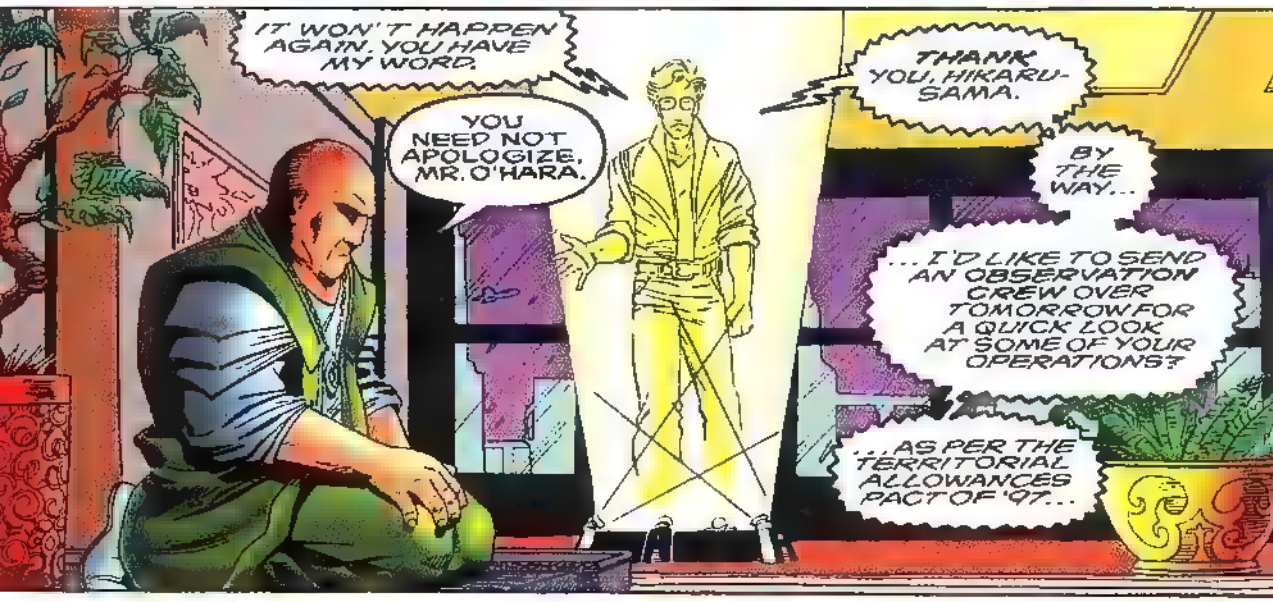
7. JUNE. Actually, that refers to June Rosenberg. Geez, I was just mad for her all through high school.

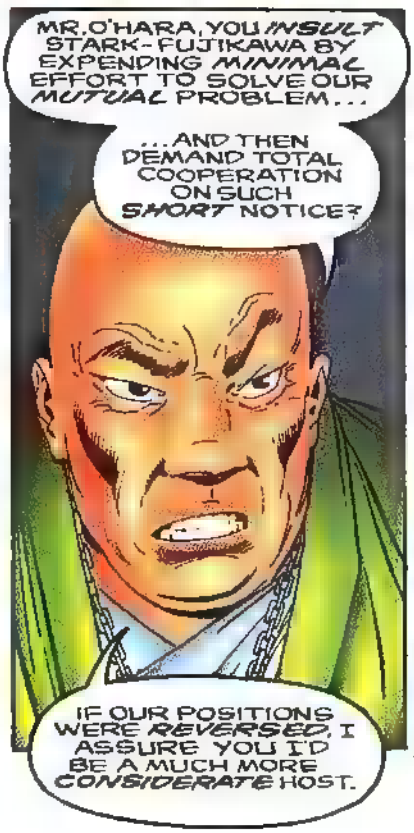
8. JULY. That's the expiration date on the milk in this coffee, meaning it's time to go.

2099 Bitmapped

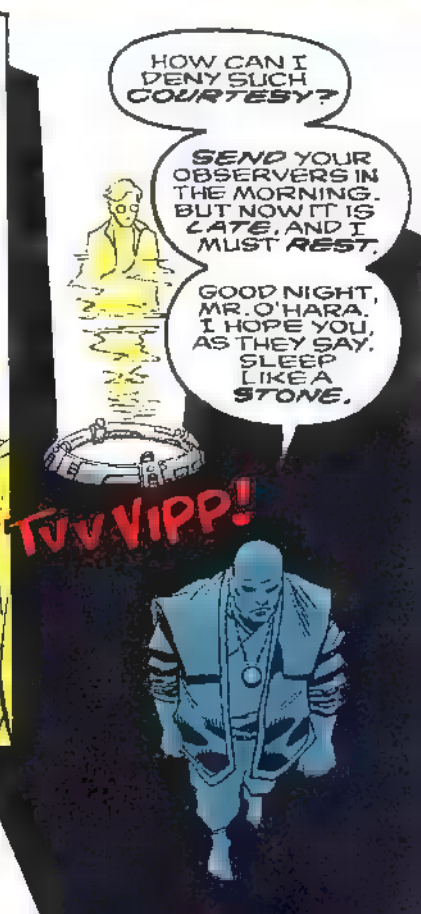
KEEP IT DOWN, YOU TWO!
SURE THING, SUZIE--SOON AS YER LITTLE BROTHER HERE ADMITS HE'S WRONG!
NO WAY! IT WAS TOTALLY LAME WHEN THEY SAID HIS NAME WAS COSMO! IT WAS WAY BETTER WHEN WE DIDN'T--
HE'S COMING! REED'S COMING!
LAB
4
YER HIDIN' YER EXCITEMENT PRETTY GOOD THERE, STRETCHO.
C'MON--I KNOW I'M THE REAL THING.
...THE UNIVERSE COULDN'T STAND NO MORE A'MY BOYISH CHARM AN' GOOD LOOKS THAN THAT!
RIGHT?
I...I DON'T--
THEIR TECHNIQUE HERE--IN 2099--IT'S VIRTUALLY FLAWLESS. NO MICRO-SCARRING... NO MARKERS...
NO WAY TO PROVE WHO WE ARE...OR WHAT WE AREN'T...
WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THESE DEAD ENDS! I SAY OUR BEST BET IS TO GO BACK TO WHERE THIS BEGAN!
WE HAVE TO RETURN TO THE NEGATIVE ZONE!

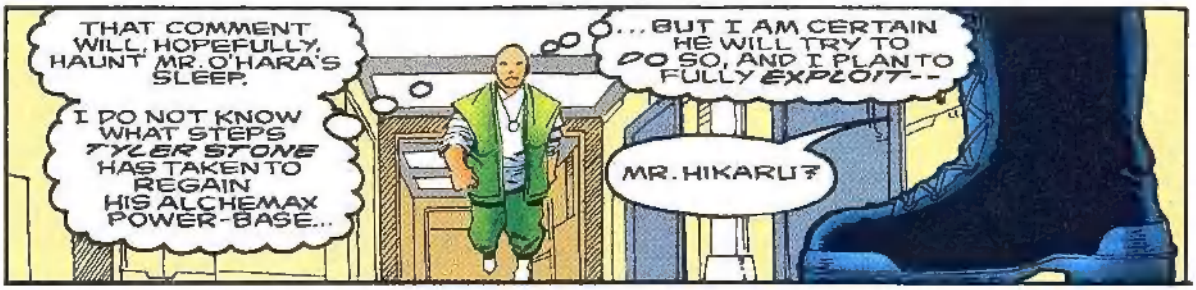

4
BAD CALL ON MY PART, HIKARU-SAMA.
BASED ON WHAT I KNOW ABOUT SPIDER-MAN, I THOUGHT HE'D BE ABLE TO STOP THE FANTASTIC FOUR...
...SAVING ALCHEMAX CONSIDERABLE MANPOWER AND HAZARD-PAY COSTS.


IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN. YOU HAVE MY WORD.
YOU NEED NOT APOLOGIZE, MR. O'HARA.
THANK YOU, HIKARU-SAMA.
BY THE WAY...
...I'D LIKE TO SEND AN OBSERVATION CREW OVER TOMORROW FOR A QUICK LOOK AT SOME OF YOUR OPERATIONS?
...AS PER THE TERRITORIAL ALLOWANCES PACT OF '97...


MR. O'HARA, YOU *INSULT* STARK-FUJIKAWA BY EXPENDING *MINIMAL* EFFORT TO SOLVE OUR *MUTUAL* PROBLEM...
...AND THEN DEMAND TOTAL COOPERATION ON SUCH *SHORT* NOTICE?
IF OUR POSITIONS WERE *REVERSED*, I ASSURE YOU I'D BE A MUCH MORE *CONSIDERATE* HOST.

MY APOLOGIES.
BUT IF OUR POSITIONS [redacted] REVERSED, YOU'D BE WELL WITHIN PACT POLICY TO *MAKE* SUCH A DEMAND.
I, OF COURSE, AM MERELY REQUESTING *PERMISSION* TO SEND A TEAM... PENDING YOUR *APPROVAL*, HIKARU-SAMA.


HOW CAN I DENY SUCH *COURTESY*?
SEND YOUR OBSERVERS IN THE MORNING. BUT NOW IT IS *LATE*, AND I MUST *REST*.
GOOD NIGHT, MR. O'HARA. I HOPE YOU, AS THEY SAY, SLEEP LIKE A *STONE*.
TUVVIPP!


THAT COMMENT WILL, HOPEFULLY, HAUNT MR. O'HARA'S SLEEP.
I DO NOT KNOW WHAT STEPS TYLER STONE HAS TAKEN TO REGAIN HIS ALCHEMAX POWER-BASE...
...BUT I AM CERTAIN HE WILL TRY TO DO SO, AND I PLAN TO FULLY EXPLOIT--
MR. HIKARU?

MR. HIKARU-- RYAN WINGFOOT, AIR-TAC. I--
YOU SHOT DOWN THE FANTASTIC FOUR SOME DAYS AGO.*
THAT'S RIGHT, SIR. THANK YOU.
I HEAR THEY'RE STILL OUT THERE, SIR. I'D LIKE TO GO AFTER 'EM AGAIN...
*F.F. 2099 #1 TO YOU AND ME.-- JOEY

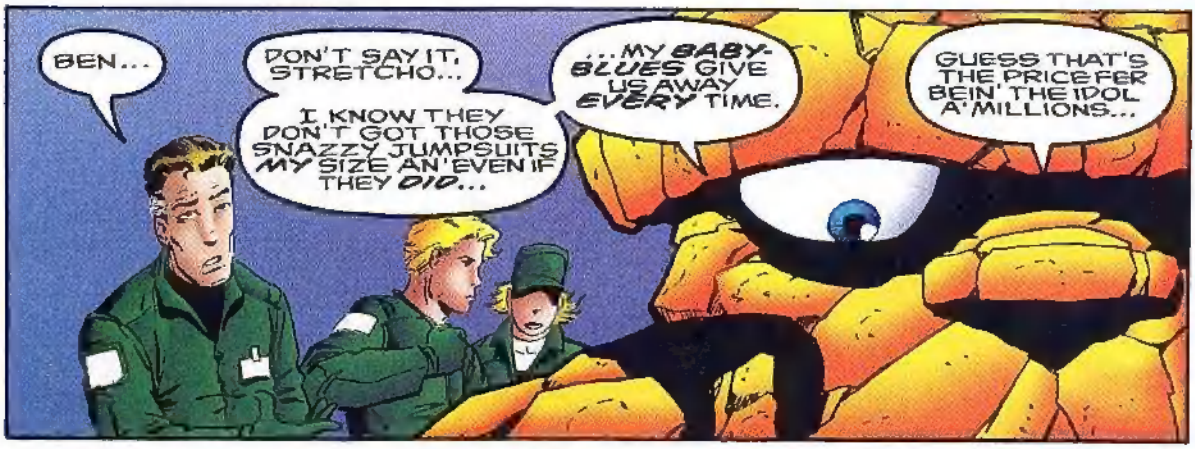
IT IS NO LONGER THIS CORPORATION'S ACTIVE POLICY TO PURSUE THE FANTASTIC FOUR, MR. WINGFOOT.
YOUR INTERVENTION WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO OUR GOALS... AND YOUR CAREER.
NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...
BUT I CAN DO IT, MR. HIKARU! I--

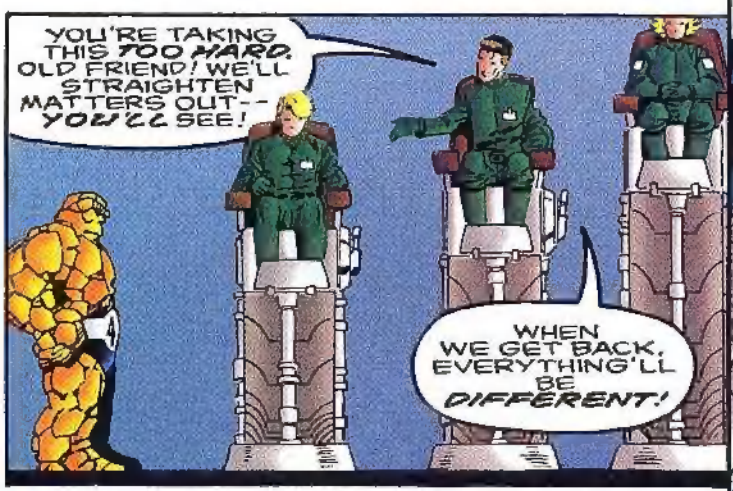
--I'D SHOCKIN' SELL MY SOUL FOR ANOTHER CHANCE!

FUNNY YOU SHOULD SAY THAT, RIOT.
THAT'S WHAT THEY CALL YOU, RIGHT, RIOT?
WHO'S ASKIN'?

THE MAN WHO'S GOING TO TAKE YOU TO THE F.F. RIOT-- NO CHARGE!
DON'T SAY RIVER STYX NEVER GAVE YOU ANYTHING, PAL!
YOU DO-- I'LL HEAR ABOUT IT. TRUST ME.

--YOU HEAR WHAT I'M SAYING, REED?
YOU GET INTO YOUR...YOUR OLD HEADQUARTERS? YOU GET INTO THE ZONE?
YOU WON'T GET BACK! STARK-FUJI'LL GUARANTEE IT!
I UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERN, CHIMERA--BUT WE HAVE TO FIND OUT THE TRUTH!
YOU DON'T NEED TO GO OF COURSE, I KNOW IT'LL BE DANGEROUS...
SHOCKIN' STRAIGHT! YOU COULD GET KILLED!
ANY OF YOU COULD GET KILLED.
...SO I BETTER BE THERE!
THINGS START TO GLITCH--YOU'LL WANT BACK-UP FROM THIS TIME-ZONE!
GOOD! I WAS HOPING YOU'D SAY THAT, CHIMERA!
NOW, LET'S GET THIS MISSION MOVING!
HEY, REED--YOU SEE THIS ZIPPER-THING FUSES THE SEAM TOGETHER?
TOO COOL, huh?
I IMAGINE THESE COULD BE USED AS STERILE-SUITS, IF NEEDED, JOHNNY...
LOOK AT US!
IT'S ALMOST AS IF IT'S THE PAST, NOT THE FUTURE...
...AND WE'RE SNEAKING ONTO REED'S EXPERIMENTAL ROCKET FOR THE TRIP THAT CHANGED OUR LIVES!
YEAH, SUZIE.
ALMOST.


BEN...
DON'T SAY IT, STRETCHO...
I KNOW THEY DON'T GOT THOSE SNAZZY JUMPSUITS MY SIZE AN' EVEN IF THEY DID...
...MY BABY-BLUES GIVE US AWAY EVERY TIME.
GUESS THAT'S THE PRICE FER BEIN' THE IDOL A' MILLIONS...



NEXT ISSUE:
ONE LESS
THING
TO WORRY ABOUT!

FANTASTIC FORUM

Joey Cavalieri
Editor
Lia Pelosi
Assistant Editor

c/o Marvel Comics
387 Park Avenue South
New York, NY 10016

Out Of Her Head

So it's Christmas time around Mighty Marvel these days and Joey's taken off to the hills of upper Manhattan, leaving me the ever-stressful task of filling this space.

Fortunately, yesterday was the day *after* Christmas and the wonderful cable series *Biography*, on A&E featured an episode dedicated to the life of Stan Lee. If you caught it you were lucky enough to hear and see the "Fabulous" Flo Steinberg (and boy, is she ever), John Romita, George Roussos and John Buscema talking about the man responsible for all of this, not to mention a few brief glimpses at what the current Bullpen looks like. If you missed it, try catching it in re-runs, it's a must see for all Marvelites.

Dear Fantastic Forum,

I'm a little disappointed that Reed's still walking all over Sue, but he's still got the defeatist attitude established by Titanic Tom, so I'll just endure Reed's effrontery. Also, Sue looks absolutely anorexic! Gak! Fantastic Forum or Fantastic Forum 2099; do y'all want Nat and Mike to read all our letters first? How about Future Forum or Forum 99? These are my only complaints in an otherwise superb effort.

Rick and Al's cover was the best of the month. I especially like that the FF are contained to the front cover, producing a greater sense of depth when laid open and flat, more so than 2099 GENESIS A.D. and SABRETOOTH. The cover's biggest surprise is the subtle variations of green, particularly the Fantastical. And the work inside, wow! I think the advent of glossy pages is the best thing to happen in comics since unstable molecules! Ha! Paul's colors look great, and the center spread is my favorite of the issue. Everything works for me in this new title, despite the fact that Rick and Al stole Sue's butt.

Another thing I greatly appreciate is the lack of advertisements, but it's Karl's work I like the best. It's very heartening to know that he's as big an FF fan as I am and that he intends to write this book forever. Karl's developed the drama and mystery well, and I found myself chuckling every now and again. Kudos to Janice, as well, for bringing Karl's work to inflective life. See y'all in 30, happy holidays.

Randy Phillips
Peoria, IL

Thanks for the compliments Randy, we appreciate your kind letter. We couldn't agree more about the team on FF, especially Karl's phenomenal writing. This book is guaranteed fun, so we hope you'll stick around.

Dear Fantastic Forum 2099,

Whoa! What a start to the new 2099 book! Sure, I don't know what the heck is going on here (how'd they get there? Why? Who? How? etc...) but I sure can't wait to find out, and I think I'll just sit back and let the pieces fall into place. I'm glad that the characters are Reed, Sue, Ben and Johnny. After all, who else could be the Fantastic Four? Anyway, I'm new to 2099, so I would like to ask a few questions:

1. Will there be a Daredevil 2099?
2. What's the story behind Stark-Fujikawa or what issues could I find out about it? I'm an IRON MAN fan.
3. In what issue has Strange 2099 appeared?
4. Is this FANTASTIC FOUR 2099 story connected to the current storyline in the modern day FANTASTIC FOUR?

Well, thanks for the time, and I can't wait for future issues. THe art was great and the story left me on the edge of my seat. Keep 'em coming

Brent Schelhagen
Dallas, TX

Welcome to 2099, Brent, glad you've dropped by our neck of the woods and glad you enjoyed our newest effort. To answer your questions: 1. We'd like there to be, but there are still no definite plans. 2. Stark Fujikawa is one of the mega corps and Alchemax's biggest competitor. Check out early issues of SPIDER-MAN 2099 for more as well as DOOM 2099 during the early parts of "One Nation Under Doom". 3. Strange 2099 appeared in issues #32 and 33 of SPIDER-MAN 2099. 4. Not yet.

Dear Joey,

Last time I wrote you, I was in the army. Now I'm in another country. What can I say? I lead an unpredictable life. But I always keep in touch with the sensational world of the "funny pages."

Last time I wrote, in order to praise the unique team of David-Leonardi-Williamson-Buccellatto, I was overjoyed to see another attempt to reunite them (sort of) in SPIDER-MAN 2099 MEETS SPIDER-MAN. However, I was thrilled to see the art team in FANTASTIC FOUR 2099, not to mention Karl Kesel who had really impressed me way back with Hawk and Dove (from your Distinguished Competition).

Nevertheless, I am distressed to see that in three consecutive issues, we get three different art teams. I know all three are great but isn't it a bit alarming? So here is my suggestion: have you ever considered hiring for this ULTRA SPECIAL TITLE either John Byrne or Walter Simonson? Both have worked wonders in the classic series in the past. I have a feeling that they would be very interested.

The future holds many surprises.

Antony Finitsis
Jerusalem, Israel

Great of you to keep track of us, Antony. You're absolutely right about the trend of revolving artists. Luckily we seem to have found a hit with Karl, Matt, Al, Paul and Janice. They'll be around as the team from now on. As for Mr. Simonson and Mr. Byrne, we did contact them long ago, and we'd love to work with either of them, but both politely declined.

Next Issue

Thing takes off for Downtown, and the return of the New York Dolls! (No, not the band, silly...)